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(Ref ER 97-5249)

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT
1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225–8281
Washington, DC 20515–6157

October 21, 1997

The Honorable George J. Tenet
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director:

By letter dated August 29, 1997 (copy attached), the Committee on House Oversight requested that you provide to the Committee, in writing by September 15, 1997, any specific concerns or objections the CIA may have regarding a proposal to provide access to House records relating to the murder of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

On September 15, 1997, the Committee was contacted, by phone, by CIA staff who indicated that a written response would be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible. However, as of this date, the Committee has received no such response.

If the Committee does not receive a written response by close of business on Monday, October 27, 1997, we will be forced to make a decision on this matter without the benefit of input by the CIA. Please contact Dan Crowley, General Counsel to the Committee, at 202/225-8281, if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas
Chairman

WMT/dfcc

Enclosure

B-205

WILLIAM M. THOMAS, CALIFORNIA,
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# Congress of the United States

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT
1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225–8281
Washington, DC 20515–6157

August 29, 1997

The Honorable George J. Tenet
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director:

The Committee on House Oversight has received a request from Andrew N. Hall, an attorney for James Earl Ray, for access to the files accumulated by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) regarding the murder of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. These House records are currently maintained at the National Archives.

The Director of the Center for Legislative Archives has informed the Committee that included in the House materials may be certain CIA documents, which must be screened prior to their release to the public. Since such a process takes considerable time, the Director has proposed providing Mr. Ray's attorney access to HSCA records without prior review on the condition that the information in the records be used only for Mr. Ray's defense and not made public. Such an agreement would comply with the attorney's request, while preserving the privacy and sensitivity of the records.

The Committee is currently evaluating the Director's suggestion, and requests that you provide any concerns or objections the CIA may have regarding this proposal to the Committee as soon as possible. In order to assist the Committee, such concerns or objections, if any, should be specific, in writing, and received by Monday, September 15, 1997. Please contact Dan Crowley, General Counsel to the Committee, at 202/225-8281, if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas
Chairman

WMT/dcn